

Oh Love Of God (Romans 8:35-39)

- I. The Love Of God Pulls Us Through External Trials (Vs 35)
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- II. The Love Of God Promises Us Eventual Triumph (Vs 36-37)
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Oh Love of God. Rom 8:35-39

One particular song I used to sing in the choir at Temple was a medley of several different songs. One of the portions of song was The Love of God. A young man from my Sunday School class would sing it. The song would come to a crescendo and he in his high tenor voice would sing "Oh Love of God how rich and pure, How measureless and strong, it shall forever more endure the saints and angels song! Oh what words. The Love of God!" In the Symphony of Romans 8, Paul is coming to a crescendo as well and begins to exalt the Love of God. Charles Spurgeon once here in the finale of the Mount Everest of the Bible, Paul is relaying that no matter the way the winds of life and death and eternally ^{Blow} the strong anchor of the Love of God will hold! If there is anything the child of God needs to be assured of in these days it is the certainty of the love of God. I want to review

this text and be reminded of the certainty of
I. It Pulls Us Thru External Trial v35

Paul asks Who shall separate...? The word separate means to put asunder to place apart between. Can anything external come between

the Child of God and the Love of God. Nothing; c1t

A. The Pressuring Trials of Life V535b-c

The word tribulation means pressure or to squeeze. I am very fearful of having my children around large crowds. To be pressured on all sides while holding the hand of my child and to be pulled away from that hand horrifies me. When the pressures from the world, the job, the family crowd in, He'll not lose his grip. The word distress = narrowness. We would put it "Being between a rock and a hard place." Barnes described this word a meaner. These can not cut us off from God's love in Christ.

B. The Preventing Trials of Life - V535d-h
persecution famine... These are the trials and difficulties of life that prevent us, that try to keep us from going forward in following Christ. These come from a world that from the inception of the church has constantly tried to stamp her out. With ridicule, deprivation, exposure, danger and threat of death, the world has attempted to impede the progress of the church. ⁽⁵⁾ Carrie Ten Boom was at These preventing and pressuring trials draw us closer to our Saviour who endured the pressure ^{as both}

II. c1t Promises Us Eventual Triumph -

V536. c1t seems as though from the world's vantage point that the church like lambs to the slaughter are doomed to certain defeat. But V537

1) Charles Spurgeon once visited the Church of one of his students. When he arrived he noticed on top of the Church a weather vane inscribed with the words "God Is Love." Spurgeon looked at the young pastor and asked, "Do you mean to imply that God's love changes like the wind?" The young pastor quickly replied, "Oh, no, that's not the message at all. The message is that God loves no matter which way the wind is blowing."

2) ...the activity of the love of God in our lives. Notice first of all the love of God...

3) ...Nothing! It pulls us through the...

4) ...Barns described this word as meaning: great anxiety and distress of mind, such as arises when a man does not know where to turn himself, or what to do for relief.

5) Corrie Ten Boom was at the Nazi death camp Ravensbruck where roll call came at 4:30 every morning. Most mornings were cold, and sometimes the women would be forced to stand without moving for hours in the bone-chilling pre-dawn darkness. Nearby were the punishment barracks where all day and far into the night would come the sounds of cruelty: blows landing in regular rhythm and screams keeping pace. But Corrie and her sister Betsie had a Bible, and at every opportunity they would gather the women together like orphans around a blazing fire, and read Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... In all things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Corrie later said: I would look about us as Betsie read, watching the light leap from face to face. More than conquerors. It was not a wish. It was a fact. We knew it, we experienced it minute by minute in an ever widening circle of help and hope.

6) ...of Gethsemane, the persecution of Pilate's hall, the famine and nakedness of the crucifixion tortures and the death on the cross itself.

1) ...Yet we will not utterly be defeated! Christ on the cross and 2 days in the tomb seemed defeated, yet victory was a guarantee on the third day!

2) 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

3) Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

4) Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit; and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would:

5) more than conquerors through him that loved us. Proverbs 24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief. Ultimate victory for the child of God is unavoidable.

6) 2 Corinthians 11:23-27 ...in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

Promises eventual triumph. We have defeats. Yet we will

A. Triumph Over Satan. - Satan and his minions are constantly endeavoring to defeat the child of God. We were in the car the other day. I even mentioned about people going to hell to law/ devil. I said devil's not in hell yet. Peter 5:8. We lose some skirmishes with him from time to time but his rule will not ultimately be overruled. The Devil's day is coming. Rev 19:10³

B. Triumph Over Sin. - To be honest, most of us have more trouble out of our diaphanous flesh than we do some demonic fiend. There is that indwelling flesh. That internal battle described in Galatians 5:15. But despite our flesh we are as vs 29 said predestined to be conformed into the image of Christ. One day I'll lose this old sinful flesh and be like my ^{Lord} blessed

C. Triumph Over Self. - Although this may be in the same vicinity as sin yet the problem with self needs to be addressed as well. God saves us with the intent that we will walk in his paths. Yet because of our self interests, self pursuits, self-centered lifestyles we are drawn away and defeated. We have that Romans 7 delima O'Hare says ^{man} that I am. Yet talk heart! We are more than ⁵Conquer

III. It Preserves Us From Eternal Torment
Paul said I've been convinced. You know Paul had his tangles with external trials. 2 Cor 11:23. We know from Romans? his defeats. But through all Paul

that could separate him from the love of God man ~~can~~

A. No Present Reality - death or life these are present realities. In life no experience, no trial no temptation, can cut us off from God's love into a lost eternity. Death, the reality of death can not loose us from God's love. I've heard of great men and women of God who have said some puzzling things at Jordan's bank. Yet death itself ^{could cut God} can not sever the

B. No Powerful Regime - the angels. These powerful servants of God who at the judgment will bind the wicked and cast them in the lake of fire. They'll not touch the child of God! No wicked angels Principals powers. Tom Hayes said: Our God is an All powerful all mighty God. Even the devil is subjected to his power. There's not enough ³ demons in numbers

C. No Positional Realm - There is no Realm of time that can cut him the love of God. No present situation to future occurrence that would cause the love of God to waver. There is no place in the highest height of heaven that can stretch the love of God. Nor depths of God! the universe that can loose the love of

IV. Closing - A pastor ⁴ asked a man over It is true that God leaves the world. He gave his son to die for it. But the love described in Rom 8 is the Love God has for those in Christ

1) ...love of God now or in eternity. Ever heard folks say "I couldn't go to Hell if I wanted to." I'm not too crazy about that phrase, but that seems to be what is indicated in these last two verses. Nothing will utterly cut me off from the love of God!

2) Tom Hayes said "Somebody said 'Well, if the Devil had his way, we'd all be in hell.' But he can't have his way!"

3) ...demons in this universe to keep me out of heaven. Then in verse 39 Paul just sums it up and there is no other creature that he may not even know of that can separate us from the love of God.

4) A pastor asked a man over ninety years of age, "My dear aged friend, do you love Jesus?" His deeply-furrowed face was lit up with a smile that sixty-seven years of discipleship had imparted, and, grasping the hand of his pastor with both of his, said: "Oh! I can tell you something better than that." The pastor asked, "What is that?" "Oh Sir!" he said, "He loves me."

I am proudly written in his
67th day in Prison
9/25/66

Who then can ever divide us
from Jesus and His love
or break the sacred chain that binds
the earth to heaven above.

Let troubles rise, and terrors frown,
and days of darkness fall
Through Him all dangers well defy
and more than conquer all.

Nor death, nor life, nor earth nor hell
nor time's destroying sway
can ever efface us from His heart
or make His love decay

Each future period that will bless
as it has blessed the past
He loved us from the first of time
He loves us to the last.